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said outer surface;

disposing of the first molded part; and

heating the second molded part whereby sintering occurs and said hollow article is formed.

REMARKS

Examiner Mai is thanked for his careful examination of our application. Reconsideration of the rejection of all remaining claims is respectfully requested. We wish to comment on his remarks as follows:

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 3, 8, and 13 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form, through absorption into their parent claims, thereby satisfying Examiner's conditions for allowance. It is requested that should Examiner Mai not find that the Claims are now Allowable, he should please call the undersigned Attorney at (845)-452-5863.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SBA', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen B. Ackerman #37761



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 8, and 13.

Please amend the following claims:

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1. A process for forming a hollow article, comprising:
providing a mixture of metal and ceramic powders, lubricants, and binders, that form a feedstock;
using a [disposable] material, that is disposable through vaporization or ash-free combustion, forming a first molded part that has an outer surface;
through powder injection molding of the feedstock, forming a second molded part that is in contact with said outer surface;
disposing of the first molded part; and
heating the second molded part whereby sintering occurs and said hollow article is formed.
6. A process for forming a hollow article, comprising;
providing a mixture of metal and ceramic powders, lubricants, and binders, that form

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a feedstock;

providing tooling that is able to injection mold from a first barrel into a first mold and from a second barrel into a second mold;

using a [disposable] material, that is disposable through vaporization or ash-free combustion, injected from the first barrel into the first mold, forming a first molded part that has an outer surface;

through powder injection molding of the feedstock from the second barrel into the second mold, forming a second molded part that is in contact with said outer surface;

disposing of the first molded part; and

heating the second molded part whereby sintering occurs and said hollow article is formed.

11. A process for forming a hollow article, comprising;

providing a mixture of metal and ceramic powders, lubricants, and binders, that form a feedstock;

providing first and second tooling, one being able to injection mold from a first barrel into a first mold and one being able to injection mold from a second barrel into a second mold;

in the first tooling, using a [disposable] material, that is disposable through vaporization or ash-free combustion, injected from the first barrel into the first mold, forming a first molded part that has an outer surface;

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transferring the first molded part to the second tooling;

in the second tooling, through powder injection molding of the feedstock from the second barrel into the second mold, forming a second molded part that is in contact with said outer surface;

disposing of the first molded part; and

heating the second molded part whereby sintering occurs and said hollow article is formed.